

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 118318

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TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, KS

SUBJECT: FRASER HEARINGS - OPENING SESSION

1. HEARINGS OF FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE ON QUOTE HUMAN RIGHTS
IN KOREA: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY UNQUOTE OPENED
MAY 20 WITH TWO AND A HALF HOUR SESSION TO HEAR
TESTIMONY OF PROFESSORS JEROME COHEN OF HARVARD AND GARI
LEDYARD OF COLUMBIA. HEARING UNUSUALLY WELL ATTENDED BY
SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS, KOREAN PRESS AND EMBASSY AND OTHERS
INTERESTED IN KOREAN AFFAIRS.

2. IN OPENING STATEMENT, FRASER NOTED IT SHOULD NOT BE
USG POLICY TO INSTRUCT FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ON HOW TO
GOVERN THEIR PEOPLE. HOWEVER, WHEN USG HAS SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIPS WITH A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT, AS IN KOREAN
CASE, BOTH EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES HAVE
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PAGE 02 STATE 118318

OBLIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THESE RELATIONSHIPS
CONTRIBUTE TO ENDS CONSISTENT WITH U.S. DEMOCRATIC
TRADITIONS; SHARP INCREASE IN POLITICAL REPRESSION IN
ROK HAS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON ROK SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITY
AND U.S. MUST REASSESS ITS COMMITMENTS TO KOREA IN

THIS LIGHT.

3. COHEN'S TESTIMONY EMPHASIZED INVERSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICAL REPRESSION AND POPULAR SUPPORT WHICH ROKG NEEDS TO EFFECTIVELY DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST NORTH KOREA. COHEN DESCRIBED PARK'S INTERNAL POLICIES AS ROK'S QUOTE ACHILLES HEEL UNQUOTE IN TERMS OF BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC SUPPORT.

4. IN LONG TERM, COHEN RECOMMENDED NEGOTIATIONS WITH MAJOR COMMUNIST POWERS TO LESSEN TENSIONS ON KOREAN PENINSULA, GREATER WEIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS IN DETERMINING OUR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WORLDWIDE, AND AVOIDING ACTIONS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN LOSS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING RISK OF NORTH KOREAN TAKEOVER OF ROK. SHOULD THE ROKG CONTINUE ITS REPRESSION OF DISSENT, US SHOULD CONSIDER SEVERENCE OF ITS PRESENT RELATIONSHIP.

5. IN SHORT TERM, COHEN SUGGESTED US, INCLUDING CONGRESS, SHOULD REAFFIRM ITS COMMITMENT AND MAINTAIN PRESENT FORCE LEVELS, WHILE MAKING IT CLEAR TO ROKG, BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY, THAT USG STRONGLY OPPOSES POLITICAL REPRESSION. AT SAME TIME, COHEN PROPOSED 50 REDUCTION IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO SUGGESTED US SHOULD BEGIN COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ASIAN DEFENSE STRATEGY, TAKING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INTO ACCOUNT, AND SHOULD NOT EXPORT ANY NUCLEAR MATERIALS TO ROK AT PRESENT.

6. LEDYARD NOTED PERVASIVENESS OF ROK HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND WEAKNESS OF ROK DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS BUT FOCUSED MORE ON BROAD STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING KOREA. U.S. POLICY SHOULD ENCOURAGE DETENTE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH BY GETTING PYONGYANG AND SEOUL TO RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER AND HAVING THE FOUR MAJOR POWERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 STATE 118318

RECOGNIZE BOTH KOREAS. EVENTUAL US GOAL SHOULD BE KOREAN UNIFICATION AND NEUTRALIZATION. AS LONG AS PRESENT DIVISION OF KOREA PERSISTS, THERE IS LITTLE US CAN DO TO PREVENT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. BOTH WITNESSES ADVOCATED GREATER US CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA.

7. COPIES OF FRASER OPENING STATEMENT AND COHEN AND LEDYARD STATEMENTS POUCHED TO EMBASSY.

8. NEXT SESSION OF HEARING SCHEDULED MAY 22 TO HEAR FATHER SINNOTT, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REP WROBEL AND G.W. U. PROFESSOR MICHAEL.

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